COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

CLASSIFICATION QC (PHYSICS)

JULY 1999

General Purpose: To support eight core courses and academic majors in Physics, Astronautical Engineering, and Aerospace Science.

Collection Level Intensity: General support

Geographical Periods: Emphasis is on the developments in the discipline of physics during the past 20 years. This does not exclude contributions of Newton, Kelvin, Bohr, Maxwell, Einstein, and other prominent physicists.

Types of Material Collected: Dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, monographs, monographic series, textbooks, indexes and abstracts, selected bibliographies, research reports, academy and society publications, and symposia and conference proceedings as appropriate to curriculum requirements and faculty research interests. Writings and biographies of prominent physicists are included. Electronic resources include online databases, CD-ROMs, and evaluated Internet web sites.

Types of Material Excluded: Audiovisual material.

Other Factors: There are several other disciplines that involve physics, other than those mentioned in the general purpose section. They include Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Geography.

Subject and Collection Levels: The areas of physics are:

QC 1-114 Collected works, theory of relativity, weights and measures, broad textbooks
120-168 Descriptive and experimental mechanics to include shock waves and fluid flow
170-197 Atomic Physics, constitution and properties of matter including quantum theory, solid state physics
220-246 Acoustics, sound
251-338 Heat, heat transfer, thermodynamics
350-467 Optics, light, laser phenomena, spectroscopy
474-496 Radiation physics---general
501-766 Electricity and magnetism, including semiconductor action and plasma physics
770-798 Nuclear and particle physics
801-809 Geophysics, space-cosmic physics
851-999 Meteorology, climatology

Collection in most of these areas is highly selective, although patron requirements are greater for items on relativity, space physics, climatology, heat collection and transfer, and electricity and magnetism. Broader collection building is practiced in these particular areas.

Materials are selected based on departmental recommendations or book reviews in such reviewing journals as Choice, Publishers Weekly, New York Public Library New Technical Books, Booklist, and Reference and Research Book News.

Weeding Criteria:

Books considered for withdrawal include:

a) Added copies printed more than 15 years ago not identified as "landmark" and those with more than two editions in that period.

b) Older editions, if superseded, are withdrawn unless usage indicates need for back-up copies. Excepted are some histories of physics, biography, papers, collected works, and facsimilies of writings of prominent physicists.

c) Materials on poor quality or brittle paper with little/no use during the past ten years will be withdrawn if newer, better books with similar coverage are available. Additional factors to be considered are:

1) Was it autographed by a prominent author?
2) Was it once owned by a distinguished public figure?
3) What is the condition of the binding?
4) Is it a memorial book?
5) Does it represent a major transition/advancement in physics?

d) Books by non-distinguished authors, in hard-to-read format, with very small print, on topics well covered by other, better prepared monographs, are often withdrawn unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as having been written by faculty members or graduates, or deemed to be needed in the future and difficult to borrow from another regional library.

Last updated by Robert Humes, Subject Specialist